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April 14, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2010 FIRST QUARTER REPORT**

This is the first quarter report of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established by a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich on September 1, 2009.

In January 2010, the Department of Public Health (DPH) Environmental Health (EH) Program officially appointed Mary J. Wood, Don Henry, Steven B. Miller, Richard Sherman, Steve Braband, Michael Montgomery, Marvin Cerdenio, Kevin Spence, Kaveh Razavi, Richard Lavin, and Patrick Nejadian to serve on the TAC. The first meeting was held on February 11, 2010. At this meeting, the members introduced themselves and established a framework in which the TAC would function, including monthly meetings and the inclusion of all members to assist on all topics (water or wastewater issues) regardless of each member's specialized expertise. In addition, the members discussed the priority areas which they would focus on as a committee. These included:

- Enhance communication between regulatory agencies, industry and communities;
- Resolve problems by working together (code requirements vs. community needs);
- Develop a better understanding of community concerns regarding drought conditions, rising costs, and economic issues;
- Propose development of a concept of "legal non-conforming" methods to meet special needs in specific areas through an appeals process;
- Discuss Non-Conventional Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (NOWTS);
- Refine the Water Treatment Guidelines with respect to arsenic;
- Prepare universal definitions of some common terms, i.e., "groundwater," "domestic water," "Fact Sheets vs. Guidance Documents," etc.; and
- Propose refinement and revisions in the amendment process of Assembly Bill (AB) 885.

On March 11, 2010, the TAC held their second meeting and introduced the proposed "Tier Structure" applicable to AB 885, which is currently under review throughout California. Tier I was discussed at length. Tiers II and III are to be discussed as they are received from the State. The members briefly reviewed the proposed draft NOWTS Ordinance, which be discussed further at the next meeting.

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The creation of the TAC work group facilitates increased communication and coordination between the regulatory and industry members. This provides the industry with the opportunity to influence proposed regulatory changes and also allows them ample time to adapt the construction practices and relay these requirements to the property owners.

The TAC will continue to meet monthly; the next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2010. We will provide the second quarter report of the TAC by July 15, 2010.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, please let me know.

JEF:am
PH:909:002

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors